The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection



The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade by Justin Roberts

Self-Awareness (understanding personal strengths, emotions, and the power of noticing)

Self-Management (finding courage to speak up, managing emotions)

Social Awareness (empathy, recognizing fairness and kindness)

Relationship Skills (standing up for others, building positive connections)

Responsible Decision-Making (choosing to take action when witnessing unkind behavior)

Background	The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade tells the story of Sally McCabe, a quiet girl who notices everything around her—especially the small injustices and unkindness that others overlook. One day, she decides to take a stand, proving that even the smallest voices can make a big difference. This book encourages students to recognize their own power to speak up against unfairness and promote kindness in their communities.
Before You Read	Look at the cover—what do you notice about Sally? How do you think she feels? What does it mean to notice things around you? Why is that important? Have you ever seen someone being treated unfairly? What did you do?
	Do you think one person can make a big difference? Why or why not?
	What are some ways we can stand up for others?
While You Read	What are some ways we can stand up for others? (Self-Awareness) What kind of things does Sally notice that other kids don't? Why is she paying attention?
While You Read Guiding Questions	(Self-Awareness) What kind of things does Sally notice that other kids don't? Why
Guiding	(Self-Awareness) What kind of things does Sally notice that other kids don't? Why is she paying attention? (Social Awareness) What kinds of unfair things does Sally see happening at her

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(Responsible Decision-Making) What do you think will happen when Sally decides to raise her voice?

(Self-Awareness) How does Sally feel when she finally speaks up? How does her body language show it?

(Social Awareness) How do the other kids react when Sally speaks up? Why does this matter?

(Relationship Skills) What happens when more students start noticing and helping others? How does the school begin to change?

(Self-Management) How does Sally's confidence grow by the end of the book? How does that relate to standing up for others?

(Responsible Decision-Making) What lesson does this story teach us about using our voices? How can we apply it to our own lives?

After Reading

K-2 Activity: "Noticing Kindness" Chart

Objective: Students will practice noticing and recognizing acts of kindness in their community.

Activity Steps:

- 1. **Discussion:** Ask students, "What are some small ways people show kindness every day?"
- 2. **Chart Creation:** Create a "**Kindness Noticing**" **Chart** in the classroom. Each time a student notices someone being kind or standing up for another, they add a drawing or short sentence to the chart.
- 3. **Reflection:** At the end of the week, discuss how noticing kindness makes our community stronger.

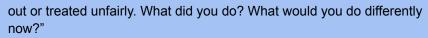
3-5 Activity: "Stand Up & Speak Out" Action Plan

Objective: Students will reflect on how they can take action when they see unfairness or unkindness.

Activity Steps:

- 1. **Discussion:** Ask, "What are some situations where people might feel left out or treated unfairly at school?"
- 2. **Brainstorming Solutions:** In small groups, students brainstorm **three** ways to stand up when they see unkindness.
- 3. Writing Prompt: "Write about a time when you saw someone being left

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4. **Commitment Pledge:** Each student writes one way they will **take action** if they see unkindness. These pledges can be displayed on a classroom bulletin board.